

MINUTES
JOINT BOARDS OF MAYOR AND BURGESSES
AND BOARD OF FINANCE
2ND PUBLIC HEARING – 2016/2017 FISCAL BUDGET
JULY 21, 2016

1. Mayor “Pete” Hess declared the public hearing open at **6:42 p.m.** with the following in attendance:

BURGESSES:

R. Neth, absent
R. Burns
K. Donovan, absent
C. Herb
D. Hoff

L. Jackson, absent
P. Scully, Sr.
R. Vitale
D. Wisniewski

PRESS:

P. Singley

RESIDENTS:

Seven

FINANCE BOARD:

A. Bottinick
A. Campbell, absent
K. Kiernan, absent
A. Lopez
A. Pistarelli, absent

J. Savarese, absent
D. Scinto
D. Sheridan, Jr.
S. Stirk, absent

ALTERNATES:

R. Burke, absent
E. Fennell, absent
W. McAllister, absent

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

M. Katra, Republican Registrar
E. Murray, Fire Chief

R. Butler, Controller

2. Mayor Hess led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Mayor Hess welcomed everyone to the public hearing and acknowledged all present from the Board of Mayor and Burgesses, Board of Finance, the Controller, and Borough Clerk.
4. Mayor Hess introduced the Chairwoman of the Board of Finance, Diane Scinto who stated the purpose of the public hearing and gave the ground rules for conducting the hearing and also stated, for the record, that the hearing was being recorded legally. Chairwoman Scinto took comments from the public after they stated their name and address.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

None

PUBLIC SAFETY

None

HEALTH AND WELFARE

None

PUBLIC WORKS

None

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DEBT

None

PENSIONS

None

INSURANCE

None

COMMUNITY SERVICES

None

M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street

Mr. Katra read the ballot question from the referendum. He stated the question said nothing about lowering the mill rate, it was to lower spending. He asked how the board can justify the increase in the budget when the voters overwhelming voted “no too high.”

RESERVE FUND

None

CONTINGENCY

None

BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

REVENUES

None

K. Kuzma – 438 Allerton Road

Mr. Kuzma appreciates the decrease in the mill rate but thinks a two mill increase is still too high. He spoke about the increased appropriations such as the large increase in Public Safety. He suggested using the Reserve Fund to offset the budget increase.

J. Heanue – 118 Celentano Drive

Mr. Heanue asked why there is an increase in the budget when they voted to decrease the budget.

M. Katra – 84 Walnut Street

Mr. Katra asked what the \$15,000 line item for Blight Enforcement would be used for and if any of the money was going for payroll. He questioned the chairwoman’s understanding of the legal obligation of the borough to lower the budget since the referendum vote was to lower the budget.

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D. Elwood – 138 Spring Street

Mr. Elwood said there are too many people employed in this town. The town is always hiring more people. We don't need to hire more people. There are people paying taxes that are out of work. He sees cops directing traffic and texting on cell phones. He said construction jobs do not go out to bid and the white building was taken down without a bid. The town is pushing the little people out of town.

L. Nolan – 167 Quinn Street

Mr. Nolan asked if the street lights were being changed to LED lights to save money.

5. Chairwoman Scinto declared the public hearing closed at **7:52 p.m.**

A digital recording of this meeting is available in the office of the Borough Clerk for further review.

Attest:

Nancy K. DiMeo
Borough Clerk